

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: EB:JMDERHAM:JV

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY JULIUS L. KATZ

FOL REPEAT OF KINGSTON 4387 TO SECSTATE INFO GENEVA GEORGETOWN
PORT OF SPAIN SANTO DOMINGO NOV 7

QTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 4387

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRO, JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN RICE QUOTA

REF: (A) STATE 254734; (B) KINGSTON 4230

1. ECONOFF PERSONALLY DISCUSSED ALL POINTS REFTTEL (A)
WITH TRADE UNDER SECRETARY WILSON NOVEMBER 6. WILSON STATED
COMMODITY ARRANGEMENT ON RICE WITH GUYANA DATED FROM EARLY
1960'S, AND ARRANGEMENT "IN SPIRIT OF CARICOM" WHICH
PLEDGED TO INCREASE INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE AMONG ITS MEMBERS.
GUYANA RICE SUPPLY HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT UNTIL RECENTLY
TO MEET CARICOM COMMITMENTS AND GOJ HAD LOOKED TO U.S.
TO MAKE UP SHORTFALLS. WILSON RECOGNIZES ARGUMENT THAT
U.S. RICE NOT COMPETING DIRECTLY WITH GUYANESE PRODUCT SINCE
IT IS HIGHER QUALITY, BUT RULED OUT LICENSE FOR REMAINDER
OF 1975. HE DID INDICATE POSSIBILITY LICENSE FOR U.S.

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RICE MIGHT BE ISSUED NEXT YEAR TO SUPPLY TOURIST MARKET.

GOJ HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED WITH GATT ON RICE SINCE IN PAST GUYANA UNABLE MEET COMMITMENTS AND AS RESULT MARKET OPEN TO U.S. AND OTHERS. WILSON COMMENTED THAT THIS "SEEMED TO BE A GOOD YEAR FOR RICE" SINCE GOJ HAD ALSO RECEIVED OFFER FROM COLOMBIA. HE ALSO GAVE ECONOFF COPY OF ARTICLE WRITTEN BY ED COLLINS, FAS, CARIBBEAN ISLANDS OFFER FARM EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES, WHICH STATED JAMAICA SECOND BEST MARKET (FARM PRODUCTS) FOR U.S. AFTER DR IN CARIBBEAN, AND THAT 1974 IMPORTS OF U.S. FARM PRODUCTS WERE \$83 MILLION WITH CORN AND WHEAT AT TOP OF LIST. WILSON SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE GROWN RICE WITHIN REGION BUT NOT CORN OR WHEAT, AND WONDERED WHY IN VIEW OF ABOVE, RICHE SHOULD BE OF SUCH CONCERN.

2. COMMENT: WILSON SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. POSITION, BUT INDICATED PROBLEM UNLIKELY BE RESOLVED UNTIL GOJ BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITION EASED AND/OR GUYANA AGAIN UNABLE SUPPLY JAMAICAN MARKET.
GERARD UNQTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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